PATENT APPLICATION Docket No.: 9898-315 Client Ref. No.: SS-18009-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 37 C.F.R. 1.132

- 1. My relevant educational and occupational background is as follows:
 - The subject matter of this affidavit relates primarily to PCMCIA cards or PC cards and their associated interconnect portions.
 - I have extensive training and experience in the design and use of PCMCIA cards.
 - 4. I have read and understood: U.S. Pat. Serial No. 10/748,868, as filed and as recently amended; U.S. Pat. No. 5,394,609 to Ferguson, et al. ("Perguson"); and U.S. Pat. No. 5,676,561 to Chiang ("Chiang"). I also have read and understood the United States Patent and Trademark Office's Final Office action mailed on June 5, 2006. Finally, I have read and understand applicants' Amendment and Remarks mailed May 5, 2006.
 - In my opinion, one skilled in the art would not want to nor have any reason to put solder on the interconnect portions of a PCMCIA card.

- 6. PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) cards or PC cards (Portable Computer Cards) as they are often referred to as are interchangeable peripherals designed to be inserted into computers in order to enable extra hardware functions. Such cards include (but are not limited to) flash memory, moderns, network interface cards, and SCSI disk controllers.
- 7. The first PCMCIA cards (where PCMCIA sometimes referred to the IBM meaning: Peripheral Component Microchannel Interconnect Architecture) were Type I, and supported actual Memory Cards (e.g. Linear or ATA Type I Flash Memory Cards), such as SRAM or flash memories. Type II cards added I/O support in addition to memory applications, and type III expanded functionality. The interface's role as I/O for various devices has largely superseded its role as a Memory Card, but this role did spawn a generation of flash memory cards that set out to improve on the size and features of ATA Type I cards (CompactFlash, MiniCard and SmartMedia).
- 8. All three types of PCMCIA cards include a plurality of interface interconnection pins that allow communication between the peripheral PCMCIA card and the computer or device with which they are connected. These interconnect pins are formed of highly conductive materials such as gold or copper to allow maximum signal speed between the card and the host device. The interconnect portions are further structured to be inserted and removed in industry standard slots to facilitate an appropriate connection for efficient communication with a host device. The introduction of solder on these interconnect portions would serve no purpose in helping carry our these goals. Rather, the introduction of solder on the interconnect portions of a PCMCIA card would hinder the communication speed and disrupt the ability to be inserted and removed from a host device. Further, as PCMCIA cards adhere to industry standards set out by the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association, the introduction of solder on the interconnects would likely place the PCMCIA card outside of the required specification to even operate with an industry standard card slot.
- For these reasons, in my opinion, one skilled in the art would not want to nor would have any reason to put solder on the interconnect portions of a PCMCIA card.

10. I, the undersigned, declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledg are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and turther, that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or roth, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false tatements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

DATED this 30 day of August, 2006.

2 non